

## **HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING DECEMBER 6, 2021**

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, December 6, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those in attendance included President Paul Wyman, Vice-President Robert B. Bray, Member Jack Dodd, County Attorney Alan Wilson, and County Auditor Jessica Secrease.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Jerry Asher and conducted by President Paul Wyman. Commissioner Brad Bray led the Pledge of Allegiance, and President Wyman offered a word of prayer.

### **IN THE MATTER OF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & RECOGNITION:**

#### **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:**

##### ***November Employees of the Month:***

Commissioners congratulated County employees Brandi Jeffers, Sam Drazich, Amy Day, and Kim VonReuss from 911 Dispatch. They all worked together on one call with great outcomes. It is with great honor that the Commissioners extended congratulations and the memento from Kokomo Opalescent Glass to the 911 Dispatch employees. Pictures were taken, and congratulations were given by all.

##### ***December Employee of the Month:***

Commissioners congratulated County employee Cody Yeakel from the Prosecutor's Office Title D-IV, who is a Case Worker and Team Leader. Cody Manages the Caseworkers, runs the productivity reports, assist in training the Caseworkers, helps in the Family Support Court, and he also works on special projects such as a new child support computer system that will be implemented state-wide. It is with great honor that the Commissioners extended congratulations and the memento from Kokomo Opalescent Glass to him. Pictures were taken, and congratulations were given by all.

### **IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes from the regular meeting held on November 15, 2021, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### **IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS & REPORTS:**

#### **PLAN COMMISSION:**

##### ***County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan:***

Howard County Plan Commission Director Greg Sheline submitted a report for the County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan being submitted to FEMA. Commissioner Wyman is authorized to sign the new letter once it is completed to be submitted to FEMA. A renewal of this plan is required every five years. The submission of the County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan to FEMA and the authorization of Commissioner Wyman to sign off on the new paper work was approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Bray. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

#### **HOWARD COUNTY RECORDER:**

##### ***Approval of Laredo Contract:***

Howard County Recorder Jennifer Jack submitted the Laredo Contract with Stoeppelwerth & Associates, Inc. The Contract with Stoeppelwerth & Associates, Inc. was submitted and approved as presented by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

#### **HOWARD COUNTY MAINTENANCE:**

***Purchasing Agreement to replace the Chiller at Howard County Court House (ARP):***

Maintenance Superintendent Bill Stonestreet submitted the purchasing agreement to replace the chiller at the Howard County Courthouse. This will need to be signed to initiate the Chiller Project. Commissioner Bray made a motion to sign for the purchase to cost no more than \$185,000.00 with the understanding that Trane will take care of all the bids and quotes. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

***Opening of Sealed Bids for Jeff Stout Government Center Tuckpointing Project (ARP):***

Maintenance Superintendent Bill Stonestreet submitted two sealed bids for the Jeff Stout Government Center Tuckpointing Project. The first bid was from Kenda Restoration in the amount of \$126,900.00, and the second bid was from Pioneer Restoration in the amount of \$97,900.00. These bids will be reviewed and taken under consideration as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Bray. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

***Approval of Parking Lighting for the Highway Administration Building:***

Maintenance Superintendent Bill Stonestreet submitted a bid of \$4,924.00 from J&J Electric, Inc. for the parking lighting at the Highway Administration Building. Mr. Stonestreet would like to pay for this out of the Cum Cap upgrades fund 1138.47243, Commissioner Bray submitted and approved the bid of \$4,924.00 from J&J Electric Inc. for the parking lighting at the Highway Administration Building as presented, Mr. Stonestreet would like to pay out of Cum Cap upgrades 1138.47243. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

***Approval of LED Lighting upgrade for Administration Building:***

Maintenance Superintendent Bill Stonestreet submitted the cost not to be more than \$2,500.00 for the LED lighting. Mr. Stonestreet stated that the Maintenance Department will install the lights and he would like to pay from the account for building upgrades under the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. Commissioner Bray submitted and approved the LED lighting for the Administration Building not to exceed \$2,500.00 and for the Maintenance Department to complete the installation of this lighting. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

***HOWARD COUNTY CLERK:***

***Approval of Annual Contract with Jeremy Peelle:***

Howard County Clerk Debbie Stewart submitted the annual contract with Jeremy Peelle for collection of late fees. This annual contract has been approved by County Attorney Alan Wilson. The annual contract with Jeremy Peelle was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Bray. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

***Approval of the Contract with Indiana Wesleyan University for the 2022 Election:***

Howard County Clerk Debbie Stewart stated that the contract with Indiana Wesleyan University for use of space in the building on Markland has been put on hold due to the building being empty. Commissioner Wyman requested this to be tabled until an answer is given.

***IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS:***

***Contract with the Kokomo Humane Society:***

Commissioner Paul Wyman submitted the contract with the Kokomo Humane Society in the amount of \$150,000.00 for approval. The contract with the Kokomo Humane Society in the amount of \$150,000.00 was submitted and approved as presented by Commissioner Bray. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

***Community Howard Behavioral Health Annual Review:***

Dr. Allison Bordeaux Executive Director of Operations introduced the following individuals to give the Annual Review for Community Howard Behavioral Health:

Tiffany Seerkri, Interim Director of CHBH Ambulatory Services, stated the total number of patients in 2021 that were served was 3,442. Of those 2,595 were adults, and the remaining were youth or children. They had just under \$5,000,000.00 in write offs and a little over \$200,000.00 in bad debt write offs of which they used the County funding of \$815,371.00 to help offset the loss. The number of crisis assessments that was performed in 2020 was 865, and this

number went up to 948 in 2021. The number of acute care admission in 2020 was 534 and a slight decline to 519 in 2021. Ms. Seerkri also stated that they served 282 more clients in 2021 than 2020.

Matthew Matteson, Program Manager of the Main Adult Clinic, gave updates on the grants in 2020. He stated that they were able to secure a grant for \$400,000.00. In 2021, they were able to receive three grants. One was for the House First Grant; this grant is available for those that are homeless or close to becoming homeless. They are required to have a mental health or substance abuse disorder diagnosis in order to qualify. The second one is a Tenant Based Rental Assistant Grant; this Grant is a partnership with the HUD Program. To qualify for the Tenant Based Rental Assistant Grant, the client must be homeless or recently incarcerated, and this grant is also income based. The last grant is the Support House Grant; this grant will help with the chronic homeless. These housing grants have been secured for the year 2022 as well. Mr. Matteson wanted to highlight the partnerships that they have with the Probation Department and Specialty Court Systems, and they also work closely with DCS, the jail, and Turning Point. Mr. Matteson stated that they have started using a new patient feedback inform treatment. It is a new service line that the clinician uses on admission asking the patients how well they are doing and getting feedback as to how the patient is doing. The feedback helps with empowering the client treatment and making them feel like they have a voice, forming a relationship with the client, and just getting necessary feedback in general. Mr. Matteson stated that the top five diagnoses that are related to substance abuse disorder are stimulation disorder, mood disorder, nicotine use, alcohol disorder use, and opium disorder use. In March of 2020, when the pandemic hit, within six days, they were up and running with virtual visit with the patients. Within 90 days, they had a hydrant model up and running. Commissioner Dodd asked if they are still providing care at the Francis Home. Mr. Matteson replied that yes, the Francis Home is still be used along with the independent apartments called the Pillar Apartments.

Dr. Allison Bordeaux, Executive Director of Operations, stated that in August alone, they had over five thousand referrals; this was a record-breaking month. Commissioner Dodd stated that places like Turning Point and First City have helped lessen the burden for Community Howard Behavioral Health. Commissioner Wyman stated that he agrees that it has been a great success story with the partnerships here in Kokomo. Not only with the opioid addiction but with mental health. Commissioner Wyman stated that the Sheriff's Office is also at the table to help in any way that they can.

### **IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS AND REPORTS:**

Howard County Auditor Jessica Secrease submitted the following claims and reports for the Commissioners' information and approval:

1. **Salary Claims:** The Commissioners' Salary, Hourly, and Overtime Claims for payment on November 19, 2021, in the amount of \$834,903.91 were submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
2. **Payroll Expense:** The Commissioners' Payroll Expenses for payment on November 19, 2021, in the amount of \$834,903.91 were submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
3. **Operating Claims:** The Commissioners' Operating Claims for payment on December 6, 2021, in the amount of \$1,498,622.27 were submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
4. **Ratify Claims:** County Auditor Jessica Secrease presented the claim for United Refrigeration, Inc. in the amount of \$5,933.40 for ratification. A motion was made by Commissioner Bray to ratify this claim. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and motion carried.
5. **Monthly Reports:** Reports were submitted for review and accepted by the Board:
  - a. Weights & Measures Report for October 2021

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONERS ISSUES:**

Commissioner Dodd stated that he attended the Indiana Association of Commissioners Conference Week.

Commissioner Wyman stated that the counties of Howard, Tipton, Clinton, Miami, Cass and Fulton have submitted for a fifty-million-dollar grant and that he will have more information on this later on this month.

*There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bray, and the motion carried.*

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

---

PAUL G. WYMAN, PRESIDENT

---

ROBERT B. BRAY, VICE PRESIDENT

---

JACK W. DODD, MEMBER

ATTEST:

---

JESSICA SECREASE, AUDITOR

Howard County Commissioners' Meeting: December 6, 2021